1	2	3	4
4.	Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP)	Under the REGP, entrepreneurs can establish village industries in rural areas and small towns with a population upto 20,000 by availing of margin money from KVIC and loan from public sector scheduled commercial banks, selected regional rural banks, co-operative banks, etc. for projects with a maximum cost of Rs. 25 lakh.	No project has been set up in Sikkim during the last three years.
5.	Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY)	Under PMRY, assistance is provided to educated unemployed youth in setting-up their ventures all over the country. Under PMRY, all economically viable activities are permissible including agriculture and allied activities, but excluding direct agricultural operations like raising crops, purchase of manure etc.	107 Cases have been sanctioned for an amount of Rs.75.31 lakh, and Rs.61.72 lakh has been disbursed to 95 cases by banks. 143 Persons have been given employment under PMRY during the last three years.
6.	ISO 9000/ISO 14001 Certification Reimburse-ment scheme	Cost of obtaining ISO 9000 Certification by small scale industries is reimbursed to the extent of 75% or Rs. 75,000, whichever is lower. The objective of the scheme is to improve the marketability of the SSI products by enhancing their quality.	No application has been received from the State of Sikkim for reimbursement.
7.	Entrepreneur-ship and Skill Development Programmes.	EDPs/MDPs are conducted with a view to enable the unemployed youth to acquire requisite skills so as to be self-employed. 22.5% of the seats in the courses are reserved in favour of the weaker sections of the society.	Rs. 66.00 lakh has been incurred on various training programmes in Sikkim during the last three years.

New scheme for promotion of small and medium enterprises

†1464. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts, made by Government in order to provide capital to medium and small industrial units according to their needs;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government have formulated any new scheme to promote small and medium industries;

(c) if so, the details of such scheme; and

(d) the concrete steps taken by Government to provide facilities to small and medium industrial units for converting themselves into big industrial units keeping in view the important role played by them in providing employment to the people?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The Government has announced a 'Policy Package for Stepping up Credit to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)' on 10th August, 2005. The measures in the Policy Package to increase the quantum of credit to SMEs include: (i) public sector banks to fix their own targets for funding SMEs in order to achieve a minimum 20 per cent year-on-year growth in credit to the SME sector, (ii) public sector banks to follow a transparent rating system with cost of credit linked to the credit rating of the enterprises, (iii) commercial banks to make concerted efforts to provide credit cover on an average to at least 5 new tiny, small and medium enterprises at each of their semi-urban/urban branches per year, (iv) adoption of cluster-based approach by banks for SME financing.

(b) to (d) To facilitate the promotion and development of micro and small enterprises (MSEs), the Government has recently announced a 'Package for Promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises' with an objective to provide full support in areas of credit, technology upgradation, marketing, infrastructure, etc. The Package, *inter alia* contains various measures aimed at making the MSE sector more competitive. Further, the Government has enacted the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006 which has since come into force from 2nd October, 2006 and provides for facilitating the promotion and development and enhancing the competitiveness of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). These measures are expected to further strengthen the MSME sector and provide an enabling environment for small and medium industrial units for graduating into large industrial units.

Disease due to excess consumption of Vitamin A

† 1465. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the last April-May, 2007 in Nara Indira area of Nagpur city in Maharashtra around 50 children caught by an unknown disease due to consumption of Vitamin A dose;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry was made to ascertain the cause of this disease; and

(c) the steps taken to save the children from this disease in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) A Statewide drive was organized for Vitamin A supplementation on 7th May for children below 6 yrs.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.